

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONIES IN KUWAIT

Disclaimer:

According to the information provided to the U.S. Embassy, non-Muslims who would like to marry in Kuwait in a civil marriage ceremony must:

1. Complete the attached **"Free To Marry"** affidavit form. This form must be notarized by the Consul at the American Embassy (do not sign the affidavit until you appear in front of a Consular Officer). There is a fee of **KD 15** for each document notarized by the Embassy.

NOTE: When two American citizens wish to marry, both are required to complete separate **"Free to Marry"** affidavits. When the marriage is between an American citizen and a foreign national, the American citizen will fill out the **"Free to Marry"** affidavit at the U.S. Embassy. The foreign national must contact his/her Embassy to seek similar assistance.

2. The Authentication Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait must then authenticate the **"Free to Marry"** affidavit. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in Shuwaikh next to the Kuwait News Agency. The office is open from: 7:30 A.M. to 12 P.M., telephone: 2243-0541.

3. Then the **"Free to Marry"** affidavit must be translated into Arabic. The Embassy can provide a list of translators.

4. Take the **"Free to Marry"** affidavit with the Arabic translation to the Office of the Public Notary in the Ministers Complex for the marriage ceremony. Address: Murgab area, Ministries complex, ground floor, Block no. 15, room 25, telephone: 2248-6444. The office is open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 7:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. **Two male witnesses are required. Make sure that the witnesses carry either their passports or valid identifications (someone with a Kuwait civil ID is preferable) with them. Take photocopies of the identifications for all parties involved.**

SUGGESTED: Because the marriage contract is issued only in Arabic, you may wish to have it translated and authenticated for use outside Kuwait. The American Embassy, cannot translate the document.

NOTE: When both parties are Muslim the "Free to Marry" Affidavit is not required. Kuwait recognizes only the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish religions. Persons of other faiths cannot be married in a civil ceremony in Kuwait.

Before me _____ (vice) Consul of the United States of America, Kuwait City, Kuwait, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that before me personally appeared _____ who, being duly sworn, deposed and stated:

My name is _____
I reside in _____
I was born on _____ in _____
I intend to marry _____
who is a national of _____

I am a citizen of the United States of America.
I am not and I have not been previously married or:
I have previously been married to _____
who is a citizen of _____ the marriage was terminated
through _____ as evidenced by _____
_____ .

I am not related to my intended spouse by blood or marriage.
I know of no objection or impediment to marriage with the person named above.
I am free from infectious and venereal diseases.
If subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Army, Navy or Air force, I have informed my chain of command.

Signature of Affiant

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____.

For the contents of the foregoing document I assume no responsibility.

(vice) Consul of the United States of America